

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 SS-20

NSC-10 SCI-06 SCEM-02 INT-08 AF-10 DRC-01 /177 W

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R 061825Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6125

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: IR, EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC - IRAN: POSSILBE ENLARGEMENT OF THE PRESENT MFN

TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3987 (1972)

1. AT THE DECEMBER 3-4 COUNCIL MEETING COMMISSIONER SOAMES REPORTED ON A REQUEST FROM IRAN FOR ENLARGEMENT OF ITS PRESENT LIMITED MFN TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY. THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE

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OPENING OF EXPLORATORY TALKS. SOME INITIAL PRESS

REPORTS SPOKE OF A POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH IRAN. SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY TALK OF AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH IRAN AND PERSUADED "AGENCE EUROPE" TO CHANGE ITS EARLIER STORY IN THIS REGARD.

2. UNTIL 1972 THE EC-IRAN AGREEMENT WAS ROLLED OVER ON AN ANNUAL BASIS WITHOUT MUCH DISCUSSION. LAST YEAR, HOWEVER, THE IRANIANS ASKED FOR CHANGES IN THE PRESENT AGREEMENT AIMED AT IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE EC MARKET AND ASSURING A MORE HARMONIZED AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE. THE IRANIANS ALSO ASKED NOT TO BE PUT AT A DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES.

3. THE COMMUNITY WAS ABLE TO PUT THE IRANIANS OFF LAST YEAR GIVEN THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT YET UNDERWAY. THIS YEAR, EVEN THOUGH THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL NOT YET COMPLETE, THERE IS A MARDEDLY DIFFERENT SITUATION. NO DOUBT THE FACT THAT ONLY IRAN AMONG MIDDLE EASTERN OIL PRODUCERS HAS CONTINUED ITS REGULAR LIFTINGS OF CRUDE HAS HELPED ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY TO CONSIDER MODIFYING THE PRESENT AGREEMENT.

4. THE MISSION HAS USED EVERY OPPORTUNITY OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS TO POINT OUT TO COMMUNITY OFFICIALS THE DANGER OF EMBARKING ON ANY AGREEMENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE OR POINT TOWARD PREFERENTIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS. THE COMMUNITY IS WELL AWARE OF OUR POSITION. SOAMES HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS BEYOND THOSE NOW BEING NEGOTIATED WITH MEDITERRANEAN, AFRICAN AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIALE COUNTRIES ARE NOT CONTEMPLATED. HARTMAN

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